

Message Text

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OES:MR.SULLIVAN

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R 221832Z FEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040646

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, UR, US

SUBJECT:SUSPENSION OF ALASKA AND PACIFIC COAST FISHERIES
NEGOTIATIONS

1. NEGOTIATION OF ALASKA AND PACIFIC COAST FISHERIES
AGREEMENTS WERE SUSPENDED FEBRUARY 22 AT US INITIATIVE.
TENTATIVE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON ALASKA FISHING
QUOTAS FOR SOVIETS AVERAGING 42 ABOVE INITIAL US OFFERS
BASED ON MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD FIGURES. (BY CONTRAST,
THE ICNAF AGREEMENT IN ATLANTIC WAS BASED ON 8 INCREASE
ABOVE INITIAL US OFFERS). DESPITE THESE SUBSTANTIAL US
CONCESSIONS SOVIETS REMAINED UNYIELDING ON QUESTIONS
OF SANCTUARIES AND ON ENFORCEMENT MEASURES FOR INCIDENTAL
CATCH OF SPECIES IMPORTANT TO US FISHERMEN, PARTICULARLY
HALIBUT. TEXT OF NEW ATLANTIC COAST AGREEMENT HAS BEEN
SETTLED; COPIES BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY AND CONGEN.

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2. EXISTING PACIFIC COAST AND ALASKA AGREEMENTS WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL JUNE 30, PENDING NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. ATLANTIC IS "SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT," AS DEFINED IN DEPARTMENT'S CIRCULAR NOTE OF DECEMBER 5 RELATING TO NEW GUIDELINES FOR ENFORCEMENT OF CONTINENTAL SHELF FISHERY RESOURCES WHICH APPERTAIN TO US SHELF. SINCE

EXISTING ALASKA AND PACIFIC COAST AGREEMENTS ARE ONLY "PARTIALLY SATISFACTORY," SOVIET FISHING VESSELS IN THOSE AREAS WILL BE SUBJECT TO BOARDING AND INSPECTION WHEN COAST GUARD "HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THE VESSEL IS TAKING LIVING RESOURCES OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF."

3. FYI. US NEGOTIATING TEAM RECEIVED IMPRESSION SOVIET COUNTERPARTS HAD INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO REACH AGREEMENT EXCEPT PERHAPS ON BASIS OF ORIGINAL (UNREALISTIC) SOVIET NEGOTIATING POSITION. IN TEAM'S OPINION, RATIONALE FOR SOVIET ATTITUDE REMAINS UNCLEAR SINCE NEW AGREEMENT SEEMS IN SOVIET INTEREST GIVEN POSSIBILITY OF CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF 200-MILE LIMIT LEGISLATION. KISSINGER

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